



GROWING IN FAITH 
GROWING IN CHRIST

**Religious Education Program In
Elementary Schools within the
Regina Catholic School Division**

Things to Know About the Program

- Approved by the Bishops of Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.
- Writers and reviewers are teachers from all across Canada (including our division) so the program follows both the liturgical and the school year.
- Greater focus on FNIM perspectives and Byzantine (Ukrainian) Catholic Church than in previous program.
- Based on both the Catechism of the Catholic Church (what we believe) and the General Directory for Catechesis (how to teach what we believe).
- Content is based on the six tasks of Religious Education as outlined in the General Directory for Catechesis i) Praying ii) Believing iii) Living in Solidarity (Charity and Justice) iv) Celebrating (Liturgies and Sacraments) v) Moral Formation and vi) Living in Community.
- Each year has a particular focus (e.g. Grade one-Baptism, Grade Two-Eucharist, Grade Three-the Holy Spirit, Grade Four-Kingdom of God.)

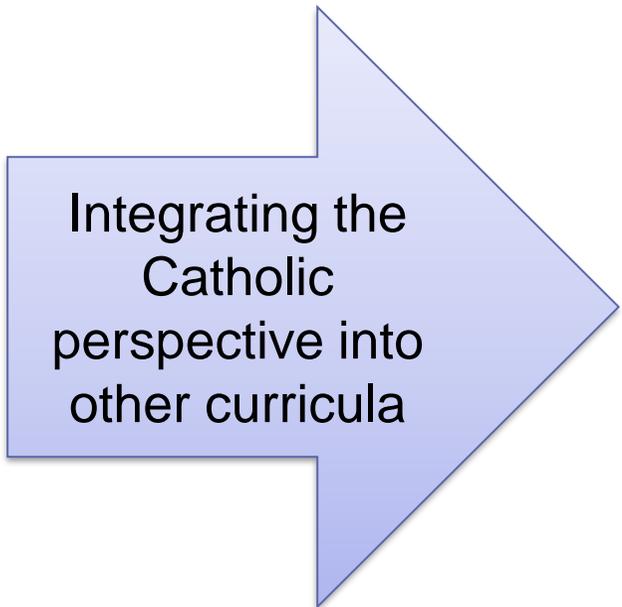


Series Organization

- Each grade (1 - 8), is organized into five units, which follow the course of the liturgical and school year
- Each unit has between 5 and 11 lessons
- Unit 1 is the heaviest unit (11 weeks) as it covers Ordinary Time from the beginning of the school year until Advent.
- Expectations are grouped within lessons; all expectations are addressed
- Each lesson follows a 4-part/day structure

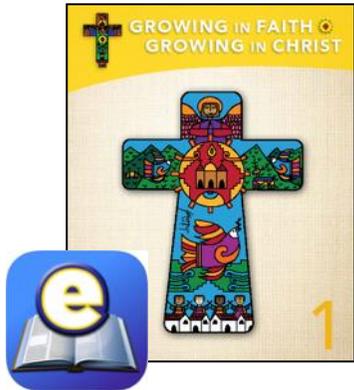
Unit Overview

- Unit 1: Ordinary Time (11 weeks)
- Unit 2: Advent/Christmas (5 weeks)
- Unit 3: Ordinary Time (4 to 6 weeks depending on how early Lent is)
- Unit 4: Lent and Easter (7 weeks)
- Unit 5: Ordinary Time (8 weeks)

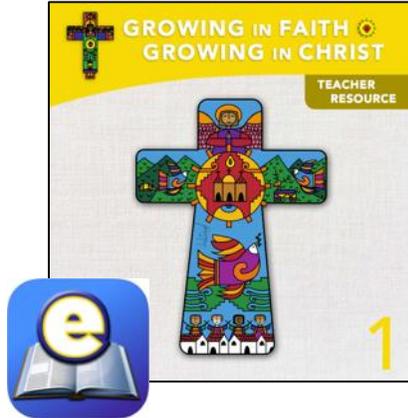


CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS
1. A Discerning Believer Formed in the Catholic Faith Community Who: (j) Recognizes that "sin, human weakness, conflict, and forgiveness are part of the human journey" and that the cross, the ultimate sign of forgiveness, is at the heart of <i>redemption</i> .
CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS
Language <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Read and demonstrate an understanding of a variety of literary, graphic, and informational texts, using a range of strategies to construct meaning. Recognize a variety of text forms, text features, and stylistic elements and demonstrate understanding of how they help communicate meaning.
The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drama: Apply the creative process to dramatic play and process drama, using the elements and conventions of drama to communicate feelings, ideas, and stories.
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Management and Probability: Collect and organize categorical primary data and display the data using concrete graphs and pictographs, without regard to the order of labels on the horizontal axis.
Family Life <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created and Loved by God: Demonstrate an appreciation that humans have been created in the image of a loving God (CCC 299, 325–327; CCCC 59; GDC 116–117, 123; GS 12).

Grade 1 Program Components Overview



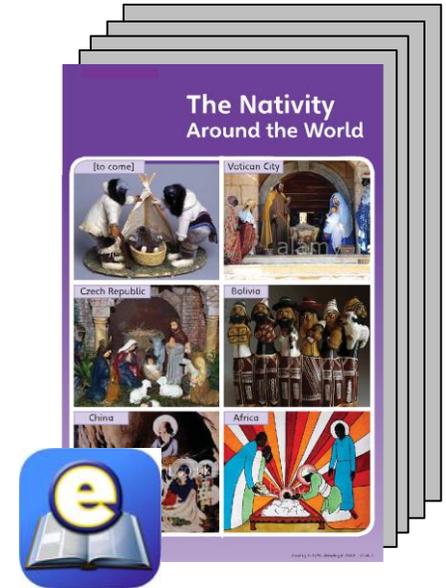
Student School and Home Resource, print and digital



Comprehensive Teacher Resource, print and digital



2 Large-Format Books with Scripture Stories, print and digital



24 Posters, print and digital



Audio CD (20 songs)



Web portal with home, school and parish access



5 Online Professional Development modules for teachers

COMPONENTS

Multi-Media/Interactive Elements

- Embedded multimedia including songs, videos
- Web-based platform for teachers, students (and parents), and parish to access eTexts under separate logins
- Parent and student universal login (grades 1-4)
<http://www.pearsoncanada.ca/school/growinginfaith/student-home/>
user name: rcsd99
password: Student99

We Make the Sign of the Cross

- Put all the photos in order.
- Click the audio buttons to hear each part of the prayer.



1 	2 	3 
	In the name of the Father,	and of the Son,
4 	5 	6 
and of the Holy	Spirit.	Amen.

Check the Prayer

Reaction to the Program

- Teachers have been loving the program. One teacher at a recent inservice said that Religion went from being one of the least favourite subjects of her students to their favourite because of the program.
- One of our grade two teachers, Honni Lizee, was recently featured in the program's Winter Newsletter. She said the only people more enthusiastic about the program than her are her students.
- Brett Salkeld, Archdiocesan Theologian, recently contacted me about doing a podcast about the program to coincide with Catholic Education Week (May 7th to 11th) as he has heard from many teachers how good the program is.
- The only complaint I have received is from teachers in grades 5-8 who want to know when they will get their new program as they have heard how excellent it is from grades 1-4 teachers.



Catholic Studies High School Curriculum

- A new curriculum to replace the Christian Ethics curriculum of 1997 was released in May of 2016.
- The name was changed from Christian Ethics to Catholic Studies to better reflect the new focus of the curriculum.
- The curriculum has been approved both by the Ministry of Education and the Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan.
- The curriculum was written by a practicing Christian Ethics teacher/Lay chaplain from the Regina Catholic School Division.



Focus at Each Grade Level

- The Catholic Studies 9 curriculum focuses in part on the importance of community in supporting and deepening one's faith. Students examine how the Catholic Church helps guide us in our ongoing faith journey.
- The Catholic Studies 10 curriculum focuses in part on the role and importance of evangelization. Students examine what it means to be called to evangelize and consider how and why the Church evangelizes.
- The Catholic Studies 20 curriculum focuses in part on the role and importance of Catholic identity. Students examine what it means to live as a disciple of Christ and how this affects the way that one lives one's life.
- The Catholic Studies 30 curriculum focuses in part on the importance of being both a spiritual and religious person. Students examine how they are called by God to freely choose a life of service for others that will help to transform society and the world.



Implementation Schedule

- Catholic Studies 90 and 10 were implemented in the 2017-2018 school year.
- Catholic Studies 20 and 30 will be implemented in the 2018-2019 school year.
- The French Catholic Studies Curriculum has only recently been approved and finding appropriate French resources is proving to be a challenge.
- French Catholic Studies 90 will be implemented in the 2018-2019 school year, 10 in the 2019-2020 school year, 20 in the 2020-2021 school year, and 30 in the 2021-2022 school year.



Changes In the New Curriculum

- ▶ Apart from the name change, there are some other changes in the new curriculum.
- ▶ The new curriculum focuses on five foundational components that appear at all four grade levels: Scripture, Tradition, Dignity, Relationships and Dialogue.
- ▶ Christian Service has been replaced with Christian Action Projects. These projects-which can be individually chosen by students or done by the entire class-consist of choosing a project to deepen the learning of one of the outcomes. This may involve students volunteering their time for an organization but not necessarily. For example, when focusing on understanding the Mass, a class might choose to prepare and celebrate a mass for their Christian Action Project.
- ▶ Each grade level deepens the understanding of an outcome at a previous grade level (connections among the four grade levels)

<u>Catholic Studies 9</u> <u>Grade 9</u> Journeying in Faith with Community	<u>Catholic Studies 10</u> <u>Grade 10</u> Understanding the Call to Evangelize	<u>Catholic Studies 20</u> <u>Grade 11</u> Exploring the Joy of a Catholic Identity	<u>Catholic Studies 30</u> <u>Grade 12</u> Embracing Spiritual and Religious Life
<p>CS9.2 Examine the significance of God's covenantal relationship with humanity through the stories of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam and Eve • Noah • Abraham and Sarah 	<p>CS10.1 Examine the significance of God's covenantal relationship with humanity through the stories of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses • David • Selected prophets of the Old Testament 	<p>CS20.1 Examine the fullness of God's covenant through Jesus and how it applies to one's life.</p>	<p>CS30.3 Examine the daily commitment involved in responding to Jesus' invitation to live in covenant with God.</p>



Reaction to the Program

- Teachers have worked very hard to develop resources (in addition to each grade's text) and new teaching strategies to help bring the new curriculum to life.
- Though this has been a lot of work, it has been invigorating for the teachers.
- Student engagement with the curriculum content has increased.

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The Importance of the Teacher

No methodology, no matter how well tested, can dispense with the person of the catechist [teacher] in every phase of the catechetical [teaching] process. The charism given to him/[her], by the Spirit, a solid spirituality and transparent witness of life, constitutes the soul of every method. Only his/[her] human and Christian qualities guarantees a good use of texts, and other work instruments.” (GDC #156)